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A N D

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Contributions and all Communications, other than Advertisements, intended for notice or insertion in the JOURNAL, are to be addressed to

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## COINS UNDER CORNER-STONES.

The origin of the custom of placing Coins under the Corner-Stone of an edifice is worthy of investigation; and we felt interested in reading of late, in Merivale's "History of the Romans under the Empire",\* the following account of such a ceremony as it took place in the first century of our Era. This is the only description of the kind, as far as we know, which has been transmitted from antiquity. The great Temple of Jupiter on the Capitoline having been destroyed in the conflict between the partisans of Vitellius and those of Vespasian, it became incumbent on the latter emperor, immediately after his accession to restore the structure with every attention to form and happy omen. It was done accordingly, though not by Vespasian in person, in the first year of his reign, 70 A. D. But let us hear Merivale:

"With the return of abundance and tranquillity, the first care of the senate was to commence the restoration of the Capitol; for while the temple of Jupiter lay in ruins the fortunes of the empire seemed to suffer an eclipse. This pious work was entrusted, according to ancient precedent, to one of the most respected of the citizens, by name L. Vestinus, who, though only of knightly family, was equal in personal repute to any of the senators. The Haruspices, whom he consulted, demanded that the ruins of the fallen building should be conveyed away, and cast into the lowest places of the city, and the new temple erected precisely on the old foundations; for the gods, they declared, would have no change made in the form of their familiar dwelling. On the 20th of June, being a fair and cloudless day, the area of the temple precincts was surrounded with a string of fillets and chaplets. Soldiers, chosen for their auspicious names, were marched into it, bearing boughs of the most auspicious trees; and the Vestals, attended by a troop of boys and girls, both whose parents were living, sprinkled it with water drawn from bubbling founts or running streamlets. Then, preceded by the pontiffs, the prætor Helvidius, stalking round, sanctified the space with the mystical washing of sows', sheep's and bulls' blood, and placed their entrails on a grassy altar. This done, he invoked Jove, Juno, and Minerva, and all the patrons of the empire, to prosper the undertaking, and raise by divine assistance their temple, founded by the piety of men. Then he touched with his hand the connected fillets, and the magistrates, the priests, the senators, the knights, with a number of the people, lent their strength to draw a great stone to the spot where the building was to commence. *Beneath it they laid pieces of gold and silver money, minted for the occasion, as well as of unwrought metal; for the Haruspices forbade either stone or metal to be used which had been employed before for profane purposes.*"

The passage in the Historiæ of Tacitus,† on which the words in Italics are based, reads in the original: "passimque iniectae fundamentis argenti aurique stipes et metallorum primitiae nullis fornacibus victae, sed ut dignuntur"; and it is translated by the great antiquarian Montfaucon with literal accuracy thus †: "Into the foundations were thrown several little coins of gold and silver, and pieces of metal which had not yet passed through the crucible, and as they had issued from the mine". The authori-

\* N. Y., 1865, VI., 378-9.

† Lib. IV., Cap. LIII.

‡ Antiquité Expliquée, Vol. II., Pt. 1, p. 57.

ties adduced by the commentator Ruperti, in the edition of Tacitus before us, make it manifest that the proceeding had the nature of a religious and sacrificial ceremony, and was not, like our similar custom, chronological, or intended to transmit to posterity the date of the erection. Such too is the opinion of our learned friend Prof. Drisler, of Columbia College, who informs us that it was usual to place coins and pieces of silver in the "cellae" connected with the temples of the gods. As the existing practice of burying a chronologic memento, where it can never be seen till the destruction of the building, is simply absurd, it is evidently, like many others, a rite of the ancient faith, which has descended to modern times, and lost its significance on the way.

#### NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS.

I was much interested in the editorial in the November number of the JOURNAL, on the "Numismatics of Poetry"; and when my attention was called to the subject, was struck with the infrequent use which has been made by poetical writers, of these familiar and interesting tokens, either in the way of narrative or illustration.

That a happy use may be made of them for purposes of illustration, Burns has shown us in his celebrated lines :

"The rank is but the guinea stamp;  
The man's the gowd for a' that".

And I beg the editor's leave to suggest a slight exception to his remarks on Milton, who makes use of the following numismatic simile, where Comus, endeavoring to overcome the constancy of the benighted lady, employs this specious argument :

"Beauty is Nature's coin, must not be hoarded,  
But must be current, for the good thereof  
Consists in mutual and partaken bliss".

We find, perhaps, in Chaucer, the father of English poetry, more frequent mention of the different forms of coin, both foreign and domestic, current in his day, than in any of his successors. In the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, he says of the merchant :

**"Wel coud he in eschaunge sheldes sell",**

alluding to the French crowns, which were so called in England, from the shield they bore on the reverse. In different Tales he mentions the "mite", the "farthing", the "peny" and "half-peny", the "grote" and "franke". In the "Rime of Sir Thopas" it is said,

**"His robe was of cheklatoun  
That coste many a jane",**

described in the old glossary as a "halfepence of Janua", or Genoa. The Parson affirms of the avaricious man, that "for certes, every Florein in his cofer is his maumet", or idol.

Gower, the cotemporary of Chaucer, in his "Confessio Amantis", charges a heavy material responsibility on the same coin, as follows :

**"For this a man maie fynde writte,  
To fore the tyme, er golde was smitte  
In coygne, that men the floren knewe,  
There was wel nighe no man untrewe.  
Tho was there shelde ne speare,  
Ne deadly wepen for to beare.  
Tho was the towne withouten walle,  
Whiche nowe is closed ober alle, &c.,  
So maye men knowe, how the floreyn  
Was moder first of malegin".**

In Spenser, as might be expected, we find slight reference to the product of the die in any form. The shadowy and allegorical personages with whom he peopled Arcadia and the realms of Fairy Land, lived and roved in regions where money was a superfluity. This is the only form of wealth

which will not be found scattered with lavish hand through his pages, and even this is not wholly wanting, as witness the following description of the surroundings of Mammon, in the "Fairy Queen":

"Around about him lay on every side  
Great heapes of gold that never could be spent:  
Of which, some were rude ower, not purifie  
Of Mulciber's devouring element,  
Some others were new driven and distent  
Into great ingots, and to wedges square;  
Some in round plates, withouten moniment;  
But most were stamp't, and in their metall bare  
The antique shapes of kings and cesars straunge and rare".

But if we turn our attention to the prose writers of England, we find them, in numerous instances, dwelling on the charms or usefulness of numismatic research; and several of them were well known to have been collectors and loving students of coins and medals. Every lover of numismatics must be proud that the genial Addison broke so gallant a lance in honor of this charming hobby. The varied and artistic series of Greece and Rome appealed strongly to his love of the classic and esthetic; and his "Dialogues on the Usefulness of Medals" was verily a labor of love, as it is assuredly one of his most pleasing works. Evelyn was an enthusiastic and life-long lover of numismatics; and not the least important of his works was his "Treatise on Medals". In a letter to Pepys, he calls his attention strongly to the charms of this favorite pursuit, and urges him to begin the formation of a cabinet. In the advice he gives in regard to the obtaining and choosing of choice and genuine medals, we find that in those days they had no obliging Cogan to facilitate their search, for he says: "If they can be purchased together, as occasionally they may, it will save you a greate deale of paines, and enrich you at once. But otherwise they are likeliest met withal amongst the goldsmiths, and casually as one walkes the streeets on foot, and passes by the stalls".

Quaint old Robert Burton, in his "Anatomy of Melancholy", instead of classing this pursuit amongst the symptoms of an unsound mind, commends it as a healthful exercise for a mind diseased, "to peruse old Coyns of several sorts in a fair Gallery".

But without stopping to dwell on such distinguished names as Sir Robert Cotton, Selden, Lord Clarendon, and Sir Isaac Newton, who either themselves were collectors, or testified in their writings to the importance of numismatic research; or Gibbon, who has left a "Dissertation on the Allegorical Beings found on the Reverses of Medals"; I will bring this over-long string of quotations to a close with Dr. Johnson's summing up of the advantages of this pursuit, in the fifty-sixth paper of the *Idler*:

"The pride or the pleasure of making collections, if it be restrained by prudence and morality, produces a pleasing remission after more laborious studies; furnishes an amusement not wholly useless for that part of life, the greater part of many lives, which would otherwise be lost in idleness or vice; it produces an useful traffick between the industry of indigence and the curiosity of wealth; it brings many things to notice that would be neglected; and, by fixing the thoughts on intellectual pleasures, resists the natural encroachments of sensuality, and maintains the mind in her lawful superiority".

A. C. R.

#### NEWBY COPPERS.

These were what are known to Numismatologists as St. Patrick's Half-pence. Mark Newby, one of the first settlers of New Jersey, brought out a quantity of them with him from Ireland, and they were used for a while as a currency.

In the year 1672 a law was passed by the Governor, Council and Assembly of New Jersey, directing that, for the more convenient payment of small sums of money, these coppers should pass as half-pence, current pay, provided, however, that Mr. Newby gave security to the Speaker, for the use of the General Assembly, for the time being, that he, Newby, his executors, and administrators, would change them on demand, and that no person should be compelled to receive more than five shillings' worth of them in one payment. They did not continue as a currency in New Jersey for any length of time.

These half-pence bear upon the obverse the figure of a king crowned, who, in a kneeling position, is playing on a harp. Above the harp is the imperial crown of England, struck upon a different metal from the piece—that is, brass upon copper, or copper upon brass. The obverse legend is "Floreat Rex". On the reverse is the figure of St. Patrick, mitred, and standing, with a crozier in his right hand. In his left hand he holds a trefoil, which he is exhibiting to the people around him. On his left side is a shield, upon which are three castles, being the arms of the city of Dublin. The legend on the reverse is "Ecce Grex". Some of the specimens have a star for a mint mark, while in other specimens it is wanting.

These half-pence were struck, it is believed, in or about the year 1643, in honor of St. Patrick, and of the new order of Irish knighthood. They usually weigh about five pennyweights and a half each.

C. I. B.

## TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

## AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

**NOTICE.**—*The American Numismatic and Archaeological Society will be at all times pleased to communicate with any individuals or Societies, on Numismatic or Archaeological topics, to answer questions and give all information desired. Letters of inquiry addressed to "Prof. CHAS. E. ANTHON, Cor. Sec'y, College of the City of New York," will receive prompt attention.*

*Regular Meeting, Jan. 9, 1868.*—Dr. Perine, First Vice-president, in the chair. Letters, of a complimentary and gratifying nature, were read from several gentlemen in regard to their election to membership in the Society. The Corresponding Secretary was empowered to obtain from the Mint, for the Society's cabinet, a set of proof coins of the present year. Donations were received, consisting of ten pieces of paper money from Mr. Levick; and a volume from Gen. De Peyster, its author, on the Decisive Battles of the late Rebellion. The Corresponding Secretary exhibited, from his collection, the following interesting specimens :

1. Ruble of Peter the Great. Bust with LEG. Czar Peter Alexiewitz, autocrat of all Russia. REV. Russian Eagle and LEG. Moneta Dobra Zena Rubel; good money, one Ruble, 1704. *Mad. 2476.*
2. Medal on the Victory over the Swedes at Pultawa. Portrait of the Czarjin armor, laureate; from the left shoulder to the right side the ribbon and cross of the order of St. Andrew; LEG. Czar Peter the First, autocrat of all Russia; under the arm, COVIN F. REV. Battle with LEG. Sa Poltawskui Bataliu; For the Battle of Pultawa. In Exergue: 1709, the 27th of June. Every soldier who was in the action received such a medal as a gift, and wore it afterwards on his neck, as a badge of honor, which he was not to part with under penalty of death. Hence they have now become quite rare. *Madai. Thaler-Cabinet. 1765.* 52.
3. Gnat or Wasp Dollar. HENRICUS · JULIUS · D· G· P·ostulatus E·piscopus HA·berstadiensis D·ux B·runsvicensis E·t L·uneburgensis \*99. (=1599) P· P· C\* (*Pro Patria Consumo*). Twelve coats-of-arms, framed in laurel, and set rose-wise. REV. A Lion sitting, and with his fore-feet disturbing a wasp's nest, out of which, on one side six, on the other four, Wasps fly at him, to sting him. He is however lovingly shined on by the sun, and crowned with laurel by an eagle, who hovers over him and protects him. An emblematic dollar, signifying that ten noble families rebelled against the Duke; but that he conquered them, after the Emperor had interposed and punished them. *Mad. 1113.*
4. Gadfly Dollar of Lubeck, 1537. The Gad-fly (Brömse), between CIVITATIS and LUBEC, is the sign of Nicholas von Brömse, Burgomaster of Lubeck. Onv. Emperor Charles the Fifth, with pointed beard, cloak, a baret on his head, and the golden fleece on his neck. This is a coin of extreme rarity. *Mad. 2265.* He who possesses the Lubeck Gadfly Dollar, says the eccentric Gudenus, is justly to be congratulated; "denn ist billig zu gratuliren". *Uncialorum Selectum*, p. 119. The piece is perfect and brilliant, but has evidently been re-silvered.

*Special Meeting, Jan. 16.*—At the house of Dr. Perine. President Ten Eyck in the chair. On motion of Dr. Perine a Committee was appointed to wait on Rev. W. W. Seymour and request him to read, at some convenient time, a Paper before the Society and such friends as the members may invite to be present. A Dealer's Priced Catalogue, in Swedish, of coins for sale, was received from the house thus advertising, Selling & Sahlström, at Göteborg. The book is entitled "Förteckning öfver Mynt och Medaljer" &c. The prices have a formidable appearance, till we reflect that the Riksdaler, by which they are estimated, is but 26½ cts. of our money. Judged by this standard, they are not high. A donation of leather money of Alaska was received from Mr. Geo. Hodgdon.

*Regular Meeting, Jan. 23.*—President Ten Eyck in the chair. The proceedings were confined to matters of business, which, not having been brought to a definite conclusion, are reserved for future publication, as not possessing, in their present shape, sufficient interest for the readers of the JOURNAL.

DANIEL PARISH, JR., *Secretary pro tem.*

## NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The regular meeting of this Society was called to order at 7½ p.m., Jan. 16, 1868. Vice-President Fellows in the chair.

The receipt of two pattern five-cent pieces of 1867 from H. R. Linderman, Director of the U. S. Mint, was acknowledged. An Annapolis three-pence in proof condition was exhibited by Mr. Crosby, a proof half-dime of 1796 by Mr. Chaplin, and several miscellaneous pieces by Mr. Bond, after which the meeting adjourned.

S. H. CHADBOURNE, *Rec. Sec'y.*

## BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 2. The Secretary read the report of the previous meeting, a letter from Charles H. Bell, accepting Corresponding Membership, and a letter from the Director of the U. S. Mint, enclosing a pattern of a five-cent piece for the cabinet of the Society. The Treasurer presented his annual report, showing the finances of the Society to be in good condition. Mr. Pratt was appointed to nominate officers for the present year, and in accordance with his report the old Board was unanimously reelected. The Secretary nominated for Honorary Membership Prof. C. E. Anthon of New York; under a suspension of the sixth By-Law he was immediately elected. Mr. Seavey presented to the Society five bronze medals of the Mint series; a proof set of the silver of 1862, except the dollar; and several specimens of Southern paper-money of the rebellion; he also exhibited a curious variety of the Rosa Americana penny in some soft metal. The Society adjourned at about 4½ P. M.

WM. S. APPLETON, *Secretary.*

## RHODE ISLAND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

*Annual Meeting, Jan. 13, 1868.*—The President in the chair.

The Records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary announced a donation, from the Director of the Mint, of an experimental five-cent piece, and was directed to acknowledge the receipt of the same, with the thanks of the Association.

The following letter from Prof. Charles E. Anthon, relative to the R. F., was then read, and further consideration of the subject postponed till the February meeting:

COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, COR. Lexington Av. and 23d Street,  
NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 1867.

MY DEAR SIR: You will have observed that, in the JOURNAL for November, under the head VARIA, I call attention to the letters R F, on the so-called Louisiana coppers. In a subsequent interview with Mr. Bushnell, that surprisingly well-informed and accurate numismatist told me that he thought they stood for "République Française". I doubted the correctness of this opinion extremely at the moment, for the simple and apparently sufficient reason that the date of these pieces is 1767, whereas the French Republic did not begin to exist till 1792. But any supposition of that eminent antiquarian possesses weight, and has a *prima facie* likelihood of being well-founded; and I am now convinced that in the present case he was perfectly right. I have, since that conversation, obtained, by importation from Europe, a German work, published at Berlin, 1855, by F. G. A. Schlickesken, entitled "Explanation of the Abbreviations on Coins of Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Times"; wherein I find that R F, "stamped on Coins of the French Colonies, in order to destroy the then detested Lilies," signifies "République Française". Now since, in point of fact, the R F, on those coppers which do exhibit it, is so impressed as to obliterate the three Fleurs-de-Lis which are seen on the other specimens, no one, I think, can hesitate to admit this explanation as thoroughly satisfactory.

But it follows from the investigations into which the subject has led me, that this coin does not belong to Louisiana at all. I am sorry to diminish the number of our pieces reputed to belong to the Colonial period of the United States: nevertheless facts must prevail over fancy. Let us look at the facts. At the close of the Seven Years' War, called in America the "French and Indian" War, France ceded to England Louisiana as far westward as the Mississippi, excepting New Orleans, and to Spain all Louisiana west of the Mississippi, together with New Orleans. No coin therefore struck in 1767 (four years afterwards) by France, could have been current, save as a foreign one, in Louisiana. When, in 1792 and thereafter, the French Republic, providing no substitute for the old copper currency of 1767, merely stamped it with the R F, this measure must have had reference to Guadeloupe, Martinique, her portion of St. Domingo, and her other possessions in America. We must also include in this list such scanty settlements as France still retained in the East Indies—for there is no special mention of America in the legend—but not Louisiana, for, neither in 1767 nor in 1792, did it belong to France.

But, it will be urged, France certainly sold Louisiana to the United States in 1803; and, if she sold the country, she surely owned it. True: but only in form, without occupation, and but for an instant. Napoleon, having erected in Italy a Kingdom of Etruria, in favor of a daughter and son-in-law of Charles IV., King of Spain, demanded and received in return (Treaty of San Ildefonso, Oct. 1, 1800, confirmed by Treaty of Madrid, March 21, 1801.) Louisiana to the same extent wherein the French had formerly possessed it. But the terms of sale to the United States had been arranged (Treaty of April 30, 1803.) before the transfer to France was actually effected; and, only a few days after that transfer, the United States were invested with the title to New Orleans and its vicinity, the Spaniards still clinging with a lingering grasp to the remainder of the eastern bank, which they had conquered from England during the War of American Independence. These last boundary-relations are complicated, and may not be stated with perfect correctness; but that does not affect the main point at issue.

At no time, accordingly, subsequent to 1763, except the very brief interval mentioned above, and then only nominally, did Louisiana, or any part thereof, belong to France; and consequently no French coinage of any year succeeding that one can be justly considered as appertaining to Louisiana.

I regard the whole matter of the "Louisiana Coppers" as now cleared up; and, anticipating that the Association will concur in my views, respectfully submit this paper to their consideration, and remain

Very sincerely, your friend and obedient servant,

JOHN J. MEADE, Esq., *Secretary Rhode Island Numismatic Association.*

CHAS. E. ANTHON.

The Reports of the Cabinet Keeper, Treasurer, and Secretary were read, accepted, and ordered to be placed on file.

Prof. Charles E. Anthon, of New York, was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Association.

The Society then proceeded to ballot for officers for the ensuing year, with the following result: President, John J. Meader; Vice-President, Albert V. Jenks; Secretary, George D. Hersey; Treasurer, Charles T. Metcalf; Cabinet Keeper, George T. Paine. Executive Committee, The President, *ex officio*, George T. Paine, Charles Gorton. Committee on Debates, The President, *ex officio*, Robert B. Chambers, George T. Paine.

The Executive Committee were authorized to purchase a cabinet for the use of the Association.

Mr. Gorton exhibited several rare colonials in fine condition; and Mr. Winsor an oval medal of Robespierre, interesting because having on the Rev. the initials "R. F."

On motion, the Association adjourned.

GEORGE D. HERSEY, *Secretary.*

### THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, 524 WALNUT ST., Jan. 8, 1868.

*Editor AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:*

DEAR SIR: I am directed by the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia to send for insertion in your valuable JOURNAL the enclosed list of its officers for the year 1868. With great respect, I am

Your obedient servant, HENRY PHILLIPS, Jr., Cor. Secretary.

OFFICERS FOR 1868.—President—Eli K. Price. Vice-Presidents—William P. Chandler, William S. Vaux, William Duane, John Farnum.

Honorary Vice-Presidents—Maine, Hon. William Willis, of Portland; New Hampshire, Hon. James W. Patterson, of Hanover; Massachusetts, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Boston; Rhode Island, Hon. Samuel Greene Arnold, of Providence; Connecticut, Hon. William A. Buckingham, of Norwich; New York, J. Carson Brevoort, Esq., of Brooklyn; New Jersey, Hon. Richard S. Field, of Princeton; Maryland, Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Baltimore; District of Columbia, Prof. Joseph Henry, of Washington; Wisconsin, Hon. Increase A. Lapham, of Milwaukee; California, Rt. Rev. William Ingraham Kip, D.D., of San Francisco.

Corresponding Secretary—Henry Phillips, Jr., 524 Walnut street.

Recording Secretary—Alfred B. Taylor.

Treasurer—Thomas E. McElroy.

Historiographer—Charles H. Hart.

Curator of Numismatics—William J. Jenks.

Curator of Antiquities—Daniel G. Brinton, M.D.

Librarian—William T. Taylor, M.D.

Committees—Committee on Hall: C. Percy La Roche, M.D., Samuel L. Taylor, Silas W. Pettit. Committee on Library: Samuel H. Fulton, Samuel L. Smedley, William T. Taylor, M.D. Committee on Publication: William S. Vaux, William H. Welsh, Alfred B. Taylor. Committee on Numismatics: Henry Phillips, Jr., Anthony C. Paquet, William J. Jenks. Committee on Antiquities: Joseph A. Clay, J. Grier Ralston, D.D., Daniel G. Brinton, M.D. Committee on Genealogy: William P. Chandler, Henry E. Keene, Charles H. Hart. Committee on Finance: William Duane, Henry Ducommun, Thomas E. McElroy.

Hall of the Society, 524 Walnut street; open every Thursday evening. Regular Meetings, first Thursday evening in the month. Annual Meeting, first Thursday evening in January.

### INTERNATIONAL COINAGE.

The Faculty of THE COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK adopted, at a recent meeting, the following interesting RESOLUTIONS, which were signed by the Professors individually; by their President, Horace Webster, LL.D.; and their Secretary, Gerardus B. Docharty, LL.D.; and transmitted to Senator Morgan:

"COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, January 23, 1868.

"Hon. Edwin D. Morgan, U. S. Senator from the State of New York:

"SIR: At a meeting of the Faculty, held this day, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"1. The Faculty of the College of the City of New York, taking a deep interest in the project of the 'International Coinage', and regarding it as an improvement of essential value to Commercial Intercourse, and as an important step towards that 'Federation of the World' which is the ultimate hope of the Philanthropist and the goal of Christian Civilization, respectfully express to their Senator

in Congress, Hon. E. D. Morgan, as chiefly having this matter in charge, their conviction of its desirableness, and their wish to sustain and aid him in his endeavors to accomplish the object in view.

" 2. Fully recognizing the difficulties in the way, as set forth by the Director of the Mint, in his Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 1867, they are nevertheless of the opinion that, if the British Government can be induced to promise that reduction of two pence in the sovereign which will bring it into accord with the proposed French twenty-five franc piece, then the United States ought to make a serious effort to overcome whatever obstacles may interpose against providing by law for that cutting down of our own gold coin by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, which would bring the three great monetary systems of mankind into perfect parallelism.

" 3. Regarding the name to be assigned to the contemplated uniform coin as of no moment, and as a point on which each nation may, and will, choose for itself, they nevertheless consider that the French franc, or one of its multiples, being founded on an invariable natural basis, ought to be adopted by every intelligent people for its financial unit, as it has been already by Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy.

" 4. Deeming it within their province, as a learned and scientific body, to attempt to strengthen the hands of their Representative, in a measure of great public utility, the members of this Faculty respectfully submit this Memorial to their Senator, and request him to make use of it in any way which may contribute to the success of his undertaking."

#### REMARKABLE CONFEDERATE MEDALS.

Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, of this city, one department of whose rich collections, that which comprises relics and memorials of the late rebellion, is probably unapproached by any similar private cabinet among us, possesses two highly interesting metallic monuments of those evil days. The first, commemorative of the redoubted Stonewall Jackson, is in all likelihood unique; and the second, which is in honor of Beauregard and his victory at Bull Run, is extremely rare. We proceed to describe these Medals:—

1. Tin, size 32. Obv. Profile head of Jackson to observer's left, beneath it CAQUÉ F; LEG. LIEUT. GÉNÉRAL T. J. JACKSON, STONEWALL, BORN 1821, DIED 1863. Rev. In a wreath of corn, right, and tobacco, left, surmounted by a five-pointed star, and issuing from a trophy of cannon, swords, bayonets, &c., which is behind a shield with the motto DEO VINDICI, the wreath being entwined with a band whereon are inscribed BULL RUN, CHANTILLY, MARTINSBURG, ANTETAM, THE WILDERNESS, FREDERICKSBURG, SHEPHERDSTOWN, HARPER'S FERRY, SUDLEY, is the following inscription in eight lines: KERNSTOWN, FRONT ROYAL, MIDDLETOWN, WINCHESTER, STRASBURG, HARRISONBURG, PORT REPUBLIC, MECHANICSVILLE, COLD HARBOUR, WHITE-OAK SWAMP, MALVERN HILL, CEDAR MOUNTAIN, MANASSAS.

2. Silver, size 12. Obv. Profile head of Beauregard to observer's left. LEG. G. T. BEAUREGARD. BRG. GEN. CSA. Rev. In a wreath of laurel, MANASSAS. 21 JULY. 1861.

The French origin of the first medal is manifest. It was found by a negro, after the fire which took place on the capture of Richmond, and given by him to Dr. Higginbotham for his "children to play with". The Doctor, who had heard of the medal's being ordered, for the purpose of distribution among the officers of Stonewall's brigade, but did not know of its having arrived, gave it to its present owner. At the same time, an impression in lead came into the possession of Chas. G. Barney, M. D. of Richmond. It is believed that this latter was a first proof from the dies, that Dr. Emmet's, which was in a glazed gutta-percha case, was a second proof, and that the dies themselves, which had been procured from France, were destroyed in the fire.

The Beauregard medal, which has the original red ribbon still attached to it, was sold by a Confederate soldier in New York. It is one of a number presented by the city of New Orleans immediately after the first battle of Bull Run.

#### NOTES, QUERIES AND REPLIES.

*Editor JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:*

What is the state of opinion among numismatists at present in regard to the origin of the Washington Cents of 1791? We who are not in the charmed circle of a Society—except through its publications—lack those advantages which arise from a free interchange of opinion, and a frequent exhibition of specimens, and which often determine minor points, such as are not thought worthy of being discussed in the pages of your JOURNAL.

Dickeson asserts, confidently, that the dies for the Washington Cents were made by a Mr. John Harper, of Philadelphia, while Mr. Prime thinks it evident, from their character, that they were made in England.

A piece has lately come into my possession, which seems to furnish conclusive proof of their foreign origin. It is an English token of the last century; and, as I have seen it occasionally mentioned in catalogues, presume it is of no great rarity. Copper, size  $18\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Obv.* Bust to right; hair in queue. *Inscription*, John Wilkinson. Iron Master.

*Rev.* Man working at a forge. *Exergue*, 1790.

*Inscription on Edge, BRADLEY WILLEY SNEDSHILL BERSHAM.*

By turning to page 88 of Prime's "Coins, Medals and Seals", it will be seen that the inscription on the edge is identical with that on a specimen of the large Eagle Washington Cent in his cabinet, thus leaving no doubt of the fact that the dies for both were executed by the same hand.

J. G. B.

CHICAGO, Nov. 27, 1867.

**REPLY.**—The Dies of the Washington Cents of 1791, both those with the large eagle and those with the small, are believed to have been made in England. The piece adduced by our correspondent confirms this view, and leads to the inference that all three were the work of Hancock, to whom the "John Wilkinson" is ascribed. The Dies of the Washington coins of 1792, on the contrary, with "G. Washington, President, I." were made in Philadelphia by Peter Getz of Lancaster, who may have been in the employ of Harper. According to a letter written in 1843 by Dr. McClintock, then Chief Refiner of the U. S. Mint, on the authority of Adam Eckfeldt, who supervised the construction of the press used to strike the Washington pieces of 1792, the impressions from all three pairs of the Washington Dies were taken in Philadelphia. Historical Magazine, I, 302-5. Our conclusion therefore is that while Dies of 1791, with the circumscription "United States of America" on the collar, were furnished by Hancock, others were retained by him in England and used there, with the words "Bradley Willey Snedhill Bersham" in that position.

*To the Editor of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:*

DEAR SIR: The December number of the JOURNAL suggests to me one or two things, which are perhaps worth putting in the form of a note to you. First, I am the fortunate possessor of a *Gedenkthaler* with the figure of Fanny Janauschek, as well as of the double-thaler with the portrait, said to be that of Rothschild's mistress. I have also a silver medal with the same obverse, but the reverse bears the following inscription: *Zur Erinnerung an die 25jährige Wirksamkeit der Zollverwaltung in Frankfurt A. M. 1836 + 1861.* It is of size 26, and the head, which seems certainly to be a portrait, represents one worthy to be the mistress of a Rothschild at least. A. v. Nordheim I take to be the name of the artist who designed it. I have read with interest Mr. Paine's letter on the Rhode Island medal, to which I will only add that I have a specimen of the first variety. I am surprised that any person can feel doubt as to the meaning of "R. F." on the French colonial coppers. I supposed they were generally acknowledged to stand for "République Française," for which there is a sufficient cause. What reason can ever have existed for stamping the coins with letters to represent "Royauté Français"?

Yours truly,

W. S. APPLETON.

Mr. Sandham writes to us from Montreal, under date of Oct. 9: "I was much surprised to find your correspondent E. G. appeal to me for further information on Canadian Coins. I do not consider myself the best authority on the subject. Nevertheless, such information as I have, I freely give unto him. For the purpose of making proper answers to the Queries put, I shall take them up as we do the consideration of By-Laws, i. e. clause by clause.—1. *Rebellion Token.* This was engraved and struck off by a French artist in Montreal, about the year 1838, for the 'Banque du Peuple'. It was the year of the 'Canadian Rebellion'; and the small star, and head with Swiss liberty-cap (to right and left of wreath on reverse), had reference to American annexation and liberty. This coin is very scarce in good condition, but is often met with in poor order.—2. *Bank of Montreal, Side-view Penny.* There is such a coin, but it is extremely rare. It is the same in design as the halfpenny of 1838. I have met with but one in the market, and the price asked was about \$10. Some of our collectors possess specimens, but would not sell.—3. *Bank Token ½ Penny Montreal*, with bunch of plants (*Bouquet* we call it). I would feel obliged if your correspondent E. G. would send me a rubbing of the coin, as I recollect none exactly corresponding with his description.—4. *Un Sou.* Your friend E. G. has 36 varieties. He has been fortunate in his efforts to collect Canadian sou's. There are about 40 distinct varieties. But I must say that a German-silver specimen is one that I have never seen, or heard of before. Is it not a cast?—5. *Stein, Brown & Co.* is not Canadian. We have a similar one, issued by Molson of Montreal, and it is extremely scarce.—6. Do we class *Wellingtons* as Canadian? We generally do, but it is very doubtful whether this ought to be. I think that they are English, and must have been imported by some of our merchants. This opinion may however be open to objection.—7. *North-West Trading Company.* I do not think that there is a specimen of it in Canada. We are securing all attainable information about it, to be published in our 'Canadian Coins and Medals'.—8. *Marriage Medal.* I cannot say anything about it, but would be obliged if E. G. will send me a rubbing of it; and I will endeavor at some time to return him the compliment".

**RECENT WORKS OF NUMISMATIC ARTISTS.**—Mr. Geo. H. Lovett, 131 Fulton St., New York, has recently cut dies for the following medals:

1. Size 26. Between two branches of palm a shield from the top of which issue diverging rays and a small Maltese cross between colons, bearing in its first quarter, a Latin cross; second, an open book; third, an even balance; fourth, a serpent entwining a wand. Leg., within an inner ring, DEX. FAVENTE. HAUD. PLURIBUS. IMPAR; outside of the ring, UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL QUÉBEC. Rev. A laurel wreath; at its summit between two palm branches, a shield bearing an open volume. Leg., PRIX DE POÉSIE FRANÇAISE.

2. Size 26. Two ships at the close of a combat on an open sea, the victor bearing the American flag at the main. Leg., "WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY, AND THEY ARE OURS." Exergue, LAKE ERIE, SEP. 10<sup>TH</sup> 1813. Rev. Between a branch of oak and one of laurel, Leg., To BY RESOLUTION OF THE KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE FEB. 11<sup>TH</sup> 1860. For sale by Mr. Lovett, in the various metals.

Mr. Wm. H. Key, U. S. Mint, Philadelphia, is engaged in modelling a bust of Elisha Riggs, Esq., for the obverse of the Gold Medals for English Composition, awarded annually, in the College of the City of New York, from the interest of the Thousand Dollar Fund established there by that gentleman a few years ago. It is the intention of Mr. Riggs to add these Dies to his former liberal donation.

The Artists of the National Academy of Design, in this city, are now preparing, on invitation of the Director of the Mint, devices for the gold and silver coinage of the United States.